


RADIANCE

No. 82 (July 1, 2021)

July/August 2021

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956
www.kannon-temple-nevada.org
kannontemplenv@gmail.com

Follow us on 

SACRED WORDS

Good men or women in the future who hear this chapter of Devadatta of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma with faithful respect caused by their pure minds, and have no doubts [about this chapter], will not fall into hell or the region of hungry spirits or the regions of animals. They will be reborn before the Buddhas of the worlds of the ten quarters. They will always hear this sutra at the places of their rebirth.

Lotus Sutra Ch. 12—Devadatta

COVID-19 Update

Good News! The State of Nevada is gradually lifting restrictions, therefore Kannon Temple will open for in-person service. We request that everyone gets vaccinated, wear a mask, bring their own DHARMA book, and social distance as much as possible. There will be no meal after service so please do not bring anything. Services will still be broadcasted online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple at: kannontemplenv@gmail.com to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through **venmo.com** to: [@kannontemplenv](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv).

Obon Memorial Service

July 18th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Buddhism can save all souls even those in hell. The Obon Memorial Service originated with the story from one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana, who saved his mother from her incessant suffering in the level of Hungry Ghost.

For the newly deceased, this will be their first Obon Memorial Service. We will create a special *Toba* (wooden tablet) with their name written on it and make special offerings to them. This is a special message to the deceased.

Please write your name and ancestors' on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the Kannon Temple before July 18th with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the lower realms.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah

Though the continued ongoing pandemic is subsiding, just to be safe, this year's visit has been cancelled. Instead, please fill out enclosed prayer form and send back to Kannon Temple along with your donation. Join service online via **Zoom** July 18th and let us all together chant for our ancestors.

Matsubagayatsu Persecution Service

Aug. 22nd, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The first of four major persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. An angry mob tried to kill him and burned his hut down. According to legend, he was saved by a monkey.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

Nichiren Shu News

In the past, many of you have been receiving hard copies of *Nichiren Shu News* paper along with this newsletter. Due to the current pandemic, physical copies cannot be delivered in time as the Japanese Post Office has suspended mail service to various destinations.

In lieu of the physical copy, please direct your attention to: <http://nichiren-shu.org/news/> to download or view the PDF version. Physical copies may resume once the pandemic subsides.

If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at kannontemplenv@gmail.com. We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense. If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

Last Rites

Shoda Douglas Kanai

From time to time, I receive calls from various chaplains from around the Las Vegas valley requesting Buddhist priest to offer last rites for any patient requesting Buddhist tradition. As most chaplains are Christians, they have found me via the internet. It seems like I am the only Buddhist priest willing to assist patients in town.

Other Buddhist priests may be hesitant due to language or their traditional customs, but I have no problem in offering support for those who are about to leave this world even if they are not a Nichiren Shu practitioner.

Please read this month's SACRED WORDS again. This passage comes from Ch. 12, "Devadatta." I use this portion from Ch. 12 when I conduct Memorial Services. For those of whom I have conducted Memorial Services, may recall hearing these words. I find these words very reassuring for everyone.

The Lotus Sutra is very difficult to meet. Though we may all have heard it once in the distant past, we have forgotten it after subsequent lifetimes. Consider yourself to be lucky to be able to hear a passage ⇒

⇐again. Why keep this special Teaching of the Buddha only to ourselves? Why not share it with everyone?

So, when I visit patients just before passing, I do a special *Kito* blessing to help ease their suffering, purify their soul, and prepare them on their next journey. I also advise the family that I conduct *Makuragyo* (Pillow Sutra) once the family member is deceased. It is at this time when I conduct the first memorial service and recite the passages from Ch. 12 to inform the newly deceased the wonders and merits contained within the Lotus Sutra.

How I explain it is that everyone has a Buddha Seed. This seed is our Buddha-nature. As with any seed, if it is not planted in good soil, with proper water and sunlight, the seed will not germinate. For most people, their seed is just lying there by the side of the road. Nothing happens. But when the person hears the passage of the Lotus Sutra, what I am doing is now taking that seed from the side of the road and planting it in the ground with good soil. Maybe in the next life, the seed will germinate, and the person will seek out the Lotus Sutra. Maybe it might many lifetimes from now.

Just as flowers in the desert only bloom every few years when the conditions are right, so too will the person who hears a phrase of the Lotus Sutra will seek it out again in their next lives.

Though the family's Buddhist practice may be different, they are still appreciative that I could come and help their loved one transition to the next life by Buddha's words. I am always delighted to oblige.



From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Kanzeon or Kannon Bodhisattva?

Shoda Kanai

Kanzeon

Kannon

觀世音 or 觀音?

The other day I was asked this question, why in Ch. 25 in the beginning portion, it lists *Kanzeon Bosatsu* and the later in the *gatha* portion lists *Kannon*? I read Ch. 25 all the time in *Shindoku* (kanji reading) and never really thought too deeply about this. Depending on who translated the *Lotus Sutra* into English, the names varies from the Sanskrit name of *Avalokitesvara*, or *Regarder of the Cries of the World* (or for short *Cry Regarder*), or *World-Voice-Perceiver*. So, there are many differences.

Some sources attribute this to translation differences from Sanskrit to Chinese of the original name *Avalokitesvara*, which was referred to by a similar but different name depending on which texts were being translated.

A scholarly debate can be had about which name is correct and which to use. This is all semantics. Just know that either name of *Kanzeon* or *Kannon* is both referring to the same Bodhisattva. Some names are long, other are short. It could be that in the *gatha* portion of using five-character verse, *Kanzeon* was shortened to *Kannon* in order to fit the line (two characters versus using three).

Another way to look at this is to ask whether Douglas or Doug is the correct name. Either way, both names refer to me. It just comes down to a matter of preference. Which do you choose?



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's Birth

676 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,000,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of June 24, 2021

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

(Services will be conducted online until it is safe for everyone to meet again)

<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
4 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
11 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
18 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
25 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	22 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Matsubagayatsu</i> Persecution
		29 th (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday

*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password ***

*** Those interested in Study Class and/or Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***